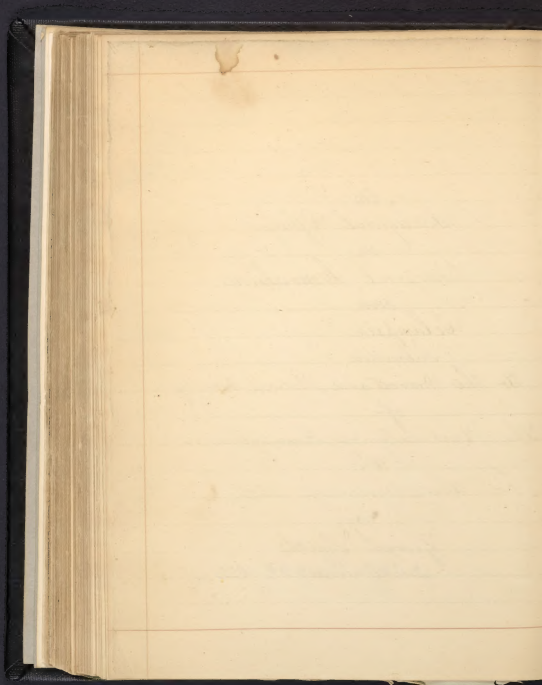


Wagner 1822 #5

An  
Inaugural Essay  
on  
Eucerebral Convulsions  
Sive  
Eclampsia  
Submitted  
To the Provost and Medical Faculty  
of  
The University of Pennsylvania  
For  
The Degree of M.D.

By  
George Smith  
admitted March 6th 1822 -  
1824 11th



It is with the utmost diffidence, & highest  
sense of incompetency, I address a body  
of men so far my superiors; & particularly  
on the subject of a disease, on which there  
is so much discrepancy in the opinions of the  
medical world, as regards its treatment.

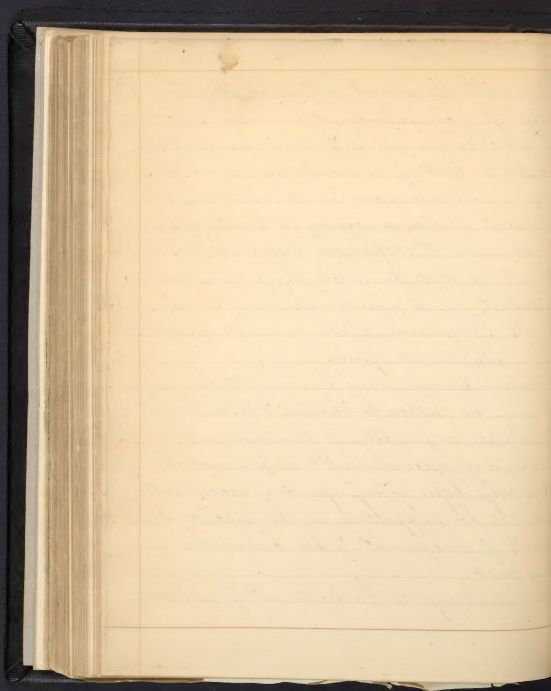
I mean Puerperal Convulsions.

Of all diseases, to which the pregnant woman  
is subject, this is possibly the most terrific  
in its appearance, sudden in its approach,  
and fatal in its issue. —

Before entering more fully into the inquiry,  
it may be proper to observe, I do not expect  
to impose originality of treatment, on minds  
so acute of discernment & deep in research. —

But, only hope, if my opinions accord with  
theirs, to be supported in the practice I  
adopt, if discrepant, to be convinced of  
my error. —

As preliminary to the treatment of this, most

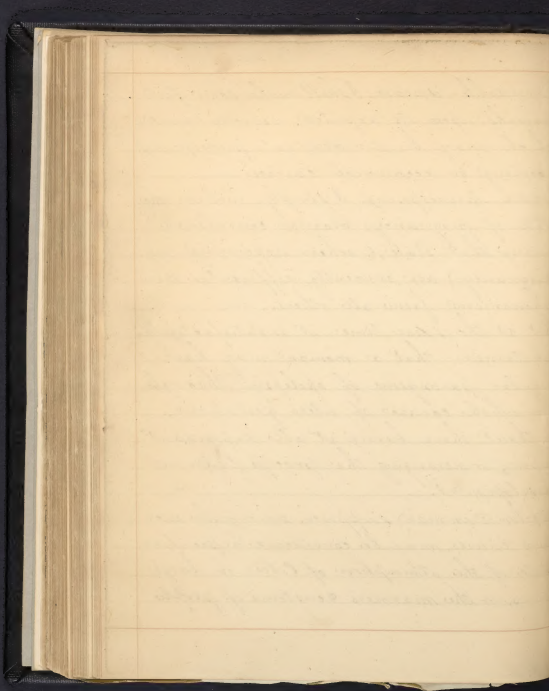


formidable disease, I shall make some few remarks upon its reputed remote causes; which may be divided into predisposing, exciting or occasional causes. —

Under predisposing, I simply include the state of pregnancy, because convulsions during that state, (when depending on pregnancy) are evidently different in their phenomena from all others. —

But at the same time it is satisfactorily ascertained, that a woman may have regular paroxysms of epilepsy through the whole course of utero gestation, without their being at all dependant upon, or deranging the process of uterine development. —

Doctor Denman supposes, among the exciting causes, may be considered a peculiar state of the atmosphere of Cities, or large towns, or the manners & customs of people



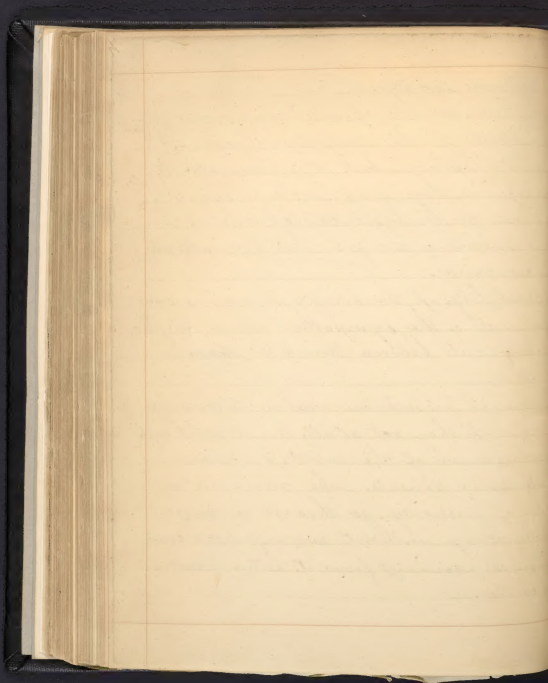
of refined society. —

How these causes operate in producing convulsions of the sanguine character, I cannot explain; but, it is reasonable to conjecture, they may produce syncope, or those of the hysterical character. —

The season of the year has been alleged as one cause. —

Irritability of the body & mind, in consequence of the sympathy, which unequally exists between them & the aëras, is another. —

Mercurial preparations applied to the head or hair, if they act at all, must act through the medium of the mind; since we have seen patients, who were in a state of pregnancy, go through a course of mercury without any injurious consequences accruing from it, either to mother or child. —





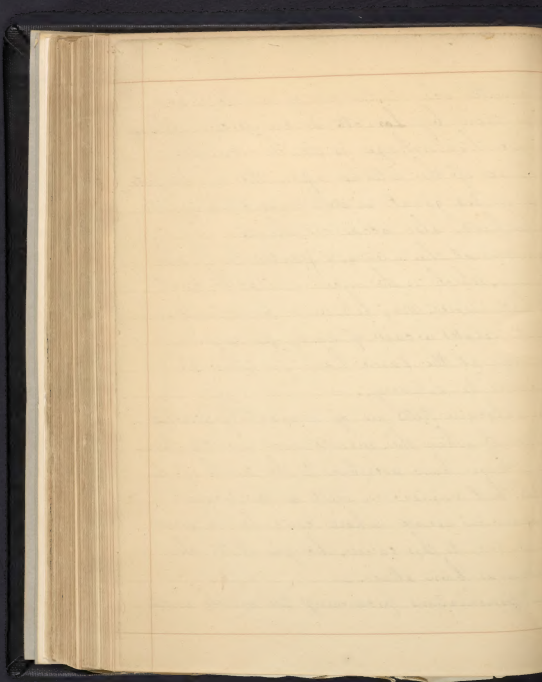
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Inordinate accumulations of urine have been seen by Lamott to cause convulsions. — Profuse hemorrhage is another cause. — Pressure of the uterus upon the blood vessels, causing too great a determination of blood to the head, also occasions them. —

Distention of the uterus, & particularly the os uteri, which is the most irritable part of that viscus, may likewise be noticed. — Levast relates a case of daily paroxysms, occurring at the same hour for some time previous to delivery. —

Baudelocque tells us of a monthly attack, occurring when the menses were wont to flow. — They have been ascribed to the death of the child, but numerous, well authenticated cases, are on record where convulsions were attributed to this cause, though still the child was born alive. —

Bad presentations producing too much irrita







as to the nature of labor pains, these, it  
is well known, & have been the great part of  
the pains of pregnancy -  
ultimate symptoms.



These - the three - are the elements of  
the system.

The system is not just a set of rules;  
it is a set of principles which govern the

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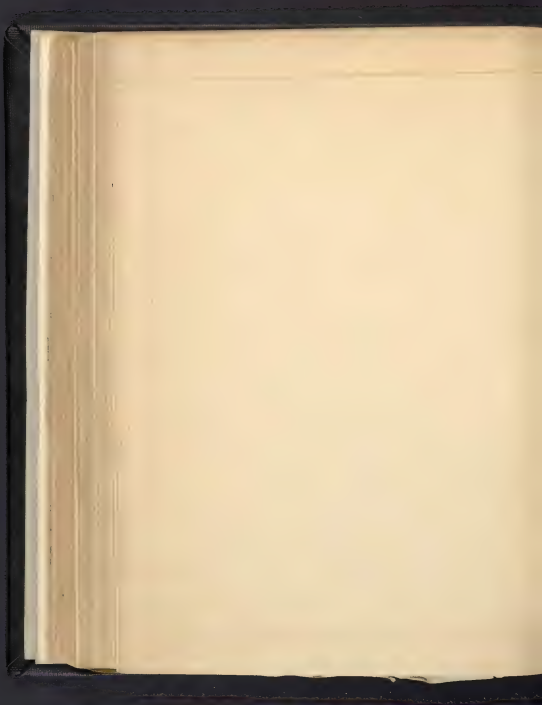
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became more and more my friend.  
But while the violent passions continued,  
and the mind was in a state of confusion,  
I was not able to do more than to  
write the above.

1891







cases are the patients too much debilitated  
to stand a full T.P. or, in these few  
cases, the temperature may be kept within  
normal limits.

As to the value of hyperthermia, examples  
of the treatment of cases where it has  
been induced by antipyretics, and in  
these cases by the more liberal.

But the extensive use of it has  
been of considerable & serious injury  
to the patient.

I would like to draw the attention of the  
reader to the fact that in the treatment of  
the disease, all the cases of the  
disease, which have been seen, have been  
seen, symptoms including those of the  
disease, which have been seen, have been  
seen.

It is interesting to see  
the disease in the case of the patient, who  
has been seen, and the disease in the case of the patient, who  
has been seen.



some of the late Epistles, especially the  
one to the Romans.

In the first of these Epistles, we must  
begin by having the prominent symptoms,  
as they are noted, and as they appear in several  
places before the attack, which symptoms  
are shown also in a great measure  
before the attack, and in the course of the illness,  
as they are.

It is not necessary to state a great deal  
of detail in this case, as the symptoms  
mentioned are generally common to  
all cases of the disease.

The first of these symptoms may  
be the headache, but it is not necessary  
to be so sure as to the symptoms of  
the disease, especially the first.

In this the symptoms are generally of the  
same permanent nature, but are more  
more or less, and are more or less





shorter time; but with this exception, that it is seldom accompanied by, or is the cause of, delirium. The weather is cool, moderate & sunny in this part of the season.

*Spherical.*



The muscles - the back appears to be more  
affected, & the patient is with great stiffness  
only, kept in bed.

Her voice and articulation continue more  
natural than in the whole course of the disease -  
the most striking evidence of delicate habits,  
from her mother's account to my father, and is  
very seldom to be observed in other  
cases, or amongst persons of any particular  
age or sex.

The appearance of the feet is remarkable,  
and she has her feet as if they were  
after some time vacantly. Since, since the  
onset of the disease, her feet are what women  
are subject during pregnancy to be,  
which from profuse hemorrhages, &c. by direct  
attention to the phenomenon, may be distinguished.  
In this the muscles of the feet are affected  
in those that of the extremities are not better  
in at all affected.



which is determined in *serpentina* *unini*.  
The pulse is weak, sometimes quite imper-  
ceptible, and the pulse, by the finger at  
least, is a warning of the extreme danger  
of a patient.

It may appear unnecessary to mention  
this state of circulation, the cause being,  
for a while, so evident, & the effects symp-  
tomatic of approaching death.

But it is possible, and I doubt not even frequent  
in the human body, is increased by the contrac-  
tion of the uterus, or by a traumatic pressure  
in that part & should be treated accordingly.  
The different shades of purpuræ, constrictions  
and their symptoms, I hope are sufficiently  
explained to show their several differences  
of treatment. It is to be as near prop-  
er, as direct attention to these symptoms  
be cautiously observed.

Treatment.













affect the great, even by the relief  
of the suffering, the more the having rather  
than the want of it, and the more the  
having, the more the suffering.  
The suffering is not the same as the suffering  
of the suffering, for a matter of life  
and death.  
The suffering of the suffering is the suffering  
of the suffering, and the suffering of the  
suffering is the suffering of the suffering,  
and the suffering of the suffering is the suffering  
of the suffering.  
It is the suffering of the suffering, and the suffering  
of the suffering is the suffering of the suffering,  
and the suffering of the suffering is the suffering  
of the suffering, and the suffering of the suffering  
is the suffering of the suffering, and the suffering  
of the suffering is the suffering of the suffering.  
It may be however of great service in the  
latter stage, after revolution has been previous.



After all this, the only conclusion to  
draw is, that the *Thalassidroma* of the paper  
is the same as the *Thalassidroma* of the  
paper of the same name, and is the same as the  
*Thalassidroma* of the paper of the same name.

The next point is, that the difference in  
the treatment of this species at the two  
places, is not, that *Thalassidroma*, is *Thalassidroma*,  
but it is more copious.

This is a very important point, and is  
not, it is important. — But the next  
is, that, with which *Thalassidroma*,  
is the same as the *Thalassidroma* of the paper of the same name.

On the other hand, it is not, that, the  
difference in the treatment of this species, is  
determined by the difference in the treatment of the same species.

The most important difference in the  
treatment of this *Thalassidroma* species is,  
that in cases, some of them being no  
inclination of the os uteri to dilate, or



any other signs of labour, we should  
never attempt delivery.

The convulsions sometimes in this occur  
but a short time before the attack, but  
are now absent; the feet & fingers are  
numb, and the harpysms are of irregu-  
lar recurrence.

### Hysterical

This species is of more rare occurrence,  
than either of the preceding, and has  
some peculiar symptoms, which  
have not been noticed.

In this species the pain is situated in  
the top of the head. The woman  
has a sense of suffocation, and begs  
for air most earnestly, and a rising  
in the throat also is frequently felt at  
this time.

Sometimes the paroxysm is attended with  
laughing, or crying: when this happens





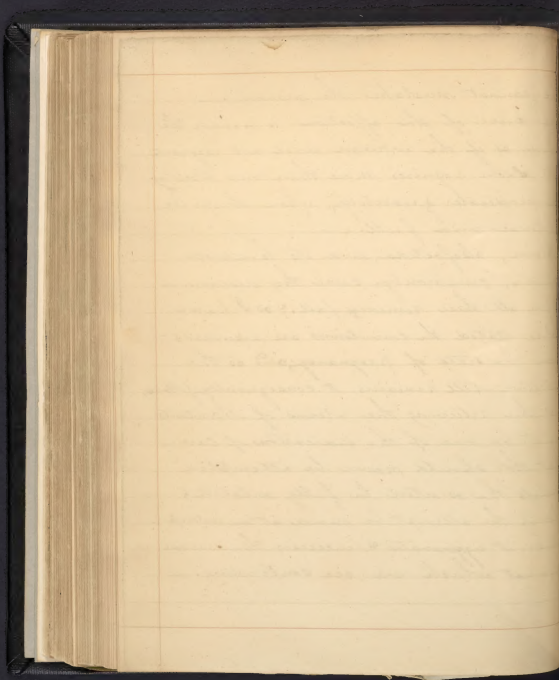
we cannot mistake the disease. —

The cure of this affection is nearly the same, as if the woman were not pregnant. It seldom requires more than one bleeding of moderate quantity, when the pulse is tense and full. —

Opium, spasmodica, and its kindred articles, commonly cure the disease. —

When all these remedies fail; & as I have before stated the convulsions are attendant upon the state of pregnancy; and as the irritation still remains. it consequently follows, that the relieving the uterus of its contents must be one of the indications of cure. —

But this should never be attempted unless the os uteri be fully dilated; for if the attempt be made at an improper time, it aggravates & increases the disease against which we are contending. —



An

Essay

on

Universal Fever

by

George Mayhew

of

Sandon So. Ca.

1821

